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Letter dated 28 June 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 May 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

[Original: English]

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 31 May 2005.

2. As at 31 May 2005, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,485, including 2,723 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change in the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo remains calm, with underlying tension that will continue in the foreseeable future. The climate seems to be one of restraint encouraged by the majority of the political leadership. While it may be fairly calm at the moment, the poor economic situation continues to hamper Kosovo's overall recovery. Violent acts aimed at destabilizing the fragile situation cannot be ruled out.

5. The inter-ethnic situation in Kosovo is expected to remain relatively calm for the next month.

6. During the reporting period, no case of possible threat against KFOR facilities and soldiers was reported; however, the lack of events does not warrant a change in the current threat level.

7. In terms of organized crime, the rise in the number of incidents continues. From 13, 41, 82 and 176 incidents reported for the months between January and April respectively, the number of incidents reported during May 2005 reached 224 and concerned drug, weapons and other smuggling activities. The increase since the previous report is due primarily to an increase in weapon seizures.

8. KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues also to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter any resurgence in violence.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during May 2005.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 3,008 active members, including 157 from the ethnic minorities. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,809 members, 17 of whom are from the ethnic minorities. At slightly over 5 per cent, the percentage of minorities remains at about half the goal of the senior representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

11. During May 2005, the Multinational Brigades carried out 82 roll calls. The percentage of KPC personnel absent without permission remained steady at 1.84 per cent.

12. Concerning training and KPC activities, regular training was conducted on the basis of the annual plan. From 4 to 6 May, pick-up zone 1 staff and unit commanders attended staff training in Training and Doctrine Command. On 12 May, Multinational Brigade (South-West) conducted an emergency readiness test in pick-up zone 3, which resulted in an overall rating of "good". All activated KPC units responded rapidly. KPC members reacted with a sense of urgency in a disciplined manner. Command and control were considered good, but individual skills need improvement. A large-scale emergency readiness test is scheduled in pick-up zone 3 in June and will be more challenging. On 19 May, in Mitrovica East, the last course and the final exam for a first-aid certificate was held for 12 KPC members. Starting on 17 March, six candidates each from pick-up zones 1 and 4 attended this training. Diplomas were awarded by Brigadier General Houbron, Commander of Multinational Brigade (North-East), in pick-up zone 4 headquarters, Mitrovica.

Conclusion

13. The general situation in Kosovo remains calm, with underlying tension that will continue in the foreseeable future. While the situation may remain generally calm, there are some underlying issues that could negatively affect this tense peace, including the poor economic situation and recurring power and water outages, as well as the conditional release of former Prime Minister Haradinaj. KFOR will monitor closely the inter-ethnic situation to help ensure a safe and secure environment in the province.